

Epilepsy



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Drug

Program

**GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS
COLLECTION**

NOV 12 1985

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**Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Division of Family Health Services**

March 1985

WHAT IS THE EPILEPSY DRUG PROGRAM?

The Epilepsy Drug Program pays for seizure control medications for low-income persons with epilepsy. Medications must be prescribed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in Massachusetts. Payments are made directly to an individual's local pharmacy by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Massachusetts residents of any age:

- Who have a seizure disorder.
- Whose income meets the financial criteria established by the Department of Public Health.
- Who do not have comprehensive health insurance which helps pay for the cost of medications.

WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE?

- Individuals whose income exceeds the Program's scale.
- Individuals who have health insurance that reimburses for medications; for example, Master Medical, Medex 3 or Medex Low Option.
- Individuals who are eligible for or on Medicaid. This includes individuals on General Relief, SSI (Supplemental Security Income) and AFDC (Aid for Families with Dependent Children).

HOW TO APPLY

Call or write to request an application. You will be asked to provide information and documentation concerning:

- Annual income
- Family size
- Previous years' medical expenditures
- Health insurance coverage and prescribed seizure control medications.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

Applicants are informed in writing within 30 days after receipt of the completed application whether they have been accepted into the Program.

Persons accepted into the Program receive a letter authorizing billing to the Department of Public Health for the cost of prescribed seizure control medications together with billing forms and instructions which are to be presented to their local pharmacy.

Pharmacies bill the Department directly at approved state rates.

Eligibility is effective for 12 months and is redetermined annually.

The Division should be notified promptly of an increase in income, or any changes in address, insurance coverage, and/or family size.

EMERGENCY COVERAGE

In special cases, the Division may authorize emergency coverage of the cost of seizure control medications for a period of up to 30 days.

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